ABCs of Thanksgiving – Jennifer Angel

Title: ABCs of Thanksgiving

Subject: Reading

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Time Frame: Two 30 minute sessions

Essential Question: What does Thanksgiving mean to you and your family?

Target Students: Inclusive General Education Classroom

Summary:

Create a class project to be shared within the classroom and with the rest of the world. This project ties together history, social studies, reading, writing, speaking and drawing. The real-life applications that my students will experience will be practice using the computer and creating their own piece of art. My students will also get practice in public speaking with the podcast. My students will also practice their fluency. I would like for my students to have a better understanding of Thanksgiving and everything that Thanksgiving entails. I am encouraging higher-order thinking skills by having them incorporate their prior knowledge along with their website research to make their own ABC’s of Thanksgiving page. This will also give my students a chance to work with others and show their teamwork abilities.

Goals and Objectives:

* + **To create an neat ABC chart book**
  + **Collaborate together during computer use and drawing/writing page.**
  + **To create a podcast using student ideas, student writing and independent technology skills.**

Benchmarks :

* + Themes Representing National Standards (K-4)
    - H2 Living and Working Together in Families and Communities, Now and Long Ago
    - H4 The History of the United States
  + Eras Representing National Standards (5-12)
    - U2 Colonization and Settlement
  + National Geography Standards
    - G5 Environment and Society
      * 5.1 Humans and the Environment
  + Word Recognition and Word Study
    - R.WS.00.03 Understand the alphabetic principle, that sounds in words are expressed by the letter of the alphabet.
  + Comprehension
    - R.CM.00.04 Apply significant knowledge from grade-level science, social studies, and mathematics texts.
  + Writing Genre
    - W.GN.00.03 Write a brief informational piece such as a page for a class book using drawings, words, word-like clusters, and/or sentences.
    - W.GN.00.04 Contribute to a class research project by adding relevant information to a class book including gathering information from teacher-selected resources and using the writing process to develop the project.

Educational Technology Standards & Expectations:

* Basic Operations and Concepts
  + 1. Understand that people use many types of technologies in their daily lives.
  + 2. Identify the functions of the major hardware components in a computer system.
  + 6. Use various age-appropriate technologies for sharing information.
* Social, Ethical, and Human Issues
  + 6. Understand that technology is a tool to help complete a task.
  + 7. Understand that technology is a source of information, learning, and entertainment.
* Technology Productivity Tools
  + - 2. Know how to use a variety of productivity software.
    - 3. Be aware of how to work with others when using technology tools.
* Technology Communication Tools
  + - 2. Know how to use age-appropriate media.
    - 3. Know how to select media formats, with assistance from teacher, parents, or students partners, to communicate and share ideas with classmates, families, and others.

Tasks:

Write the letters of the alphabet onto small pieces of paper. Have each child in the class chooses a letter. Have your students use a drawing program such as KidPix to design a page of a class book. Before your students use the computers, have each child decide what to write and allow them to revise their writing at least two times.

When the writing is complete, then begin the work on the computer. The specific letter for the page should be made larger than the other text. After typing, students illustrate their writing with appropriate drawings. These pages can be printed out, but also save the student work into a common folder to be accessed for the podcast version of the book.

To make the podcast, have each child record what he or she wrote. This recording can be done with a voice recorder or with a microphone connected directly to the computer. You can put the audio and images together using a program such as iMovie and then share as a podcast. There are many free options to publish your podcast online.

Personalization/Differentiation: Students will be able to write about subject of choice referencing to the alphabet letter that they pick concerning Thanksgiving. Strong students can help others that are in need after they have finished with their page. My students with special needs and ESL learners will be assisted by our para-professional, another student, or myself.

Real – World Connection: Students will be able to compare their meaning of Thanksgiving with others. They will also work as a large team to produce an ending product. This will teach those skills that they will need in the future working in any field. The audience includes: students, staff, parents, and others in the school. This book could be displayed in our class, the library, and online.

Resources:

Materials needed by students:

* + - Pencil
    - Paper
    - Erasers
    - Computer
    - Kid Pix Computer Program
    - Printer
    - Websites:

<http://messageboards.ivillage.com/n/mb/message.asp?webtag=iv-werenewing&msg=268.1&ctx=0>

<http://www.brentwood.k12.ca.us/brentwood/Links/gallery/gursky/Class_proj/abc_thanks/abc2.html>

Materials needed by teacher

* + - Computer
    - Recording Device
    - Kid Pix program
    - Knowledge on iMovie or some other program to converge audio and images
    - Scanner

Setting:

* + **Whole Group Lesson, Small Group Lesson, Read Aloud, Independent Writing**
  + Small groups based upon children’s need for help and academic progress thus far
  + Thanksgiving

Evaluation:

I will assess each child’s podcast and their portion of the book based upon the four point rubric below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Total |
| Topic | Totally unrelated | Remotely related | Somewhat relevant | Directly relevant |  |
| Neatness | Scribbles and no real picture or letters | Picture is legible and random letters are written | Picture is drawn and understandable Sentences are written with the beginning sounds only | Picture is drawn, colored, and understandable Sentences are written with beginning and end sounds. |  |
| Group Work | Does not work with others and does not respond to people in need | Does not work with others and only responds to people in need | Works with only friends and responds to people in need | .  Works with everyone and responds to people in need |  |
| *Podcast* | Does not contribute to podcast | Participates during podcast, however is off topic and joking around | Participates during podcast and slightly strays off topic  . | Participates fully during podcast and does not stray off topic  . |  |

Reflection:

References:

<http://www.mrsmcgowan.com/fall/abc_thanksgiving.htm>

<http://ezinearticles.com/?ABCs-of-Thanksgiving-An-Elementary-Lesson-With-Reading,-Writing,-Speaking,-Drawing-and-Technology&id=1687586>